



The Rotary Club of Macon



Published Weekly Since 1914

August 21, 2023

No Meeting



In keeping with our “three meetings a month” schedule, there will be no meeting August 21. Please join us back at our usual meeting place in First Presbyterian Church on August 28 for what promises to be an interesting program on affordable housing.

No Zoom Link

Since we didn’t meet at our regular place, there was no Zoom option. This will return August 28.

FUTURE MONDAY PROGRAMS approved by the Board of Directors:

August, 2023

21	No meeting	
28	Affordable Housing Panel	Mike Austin, Wanzina Jackson, and Everett Verner

September, 2023

4	No Meeting	
11	Artificial Intelligence	Jimmy Plunkett
18	Future of the Car Industry	Marsh Butler
25	Central Georgia CASA	

MEETING August 14, 2023

Attendance: 41.0% - 49 in person plus 7 guests

CART \$55.00

Club Membership 141

Our meeting was held at Fall Line Brewing Company and we appreciate Kaitlyn Kressin for opening up her unique event space for us. While attendance was down due to lack of a Zoom option, we actually had six more members than last week's in-person total. Having seven guests made for a full room.

Without a bell, President Stephanie still managed to bring the meeting to order. Jonathan Alderman came up and led us in an a capella version of *God Bless America*. And lacking a flag as well as a piano, we turned in the general direction of the courthouse to pledge allegiance to the flag. Andy Mealor then came up and offered the day's prayer.

Stephanie welcomed our guests, which included six people in addition to the speaker. She noted that five members have birthdays this week, including Jean Easom whose birthday is today. Three members have club anniversaries this year, including Katy Carr and Jeffrey Hagy who have just reached one year.

It was then time for CART brags. Even though we didn't have a lottery today, we still raised some funds for CART. Here's a sampling:



Rebecca Grist then came up to reiterate the schedule for the GRSP conclave this weekend. She thanked the many Rotarians who stepped up to help, and reported that we have hosts for all the students.

Stephanie then called on Josh Rogers to introduce our speaker. Josh said he was honored to introduce today's speaker, Scott Mitchell, who is the owner of The Bohemian Den in downtown Macon. Josh said he has gotten to work with Scott professionally for many years, and has watched him nurture, grow, and then explode his business. Scott is an incredibly talented entrepreneur. Starting from the low six-figures, Scott has expanded his business by over ten times, to one of the top-grossing retailers in downtown. He has done it by establishing and scrupulously maintaining not only his books, but a mission, vision, and core values that are true to himself.

Scott has won the Macon Arts Cultural Award, NewTown's Downtown Ambassador Award, NewTown's Entrepreneur's Academy pitch winner, the 2022 OUT Georgia Business Alliance business leader, and the current Chamber of Commerce Small Business Leader of the year, just to name a few. He also volunteers generously with many local institutions, including Main Street Macon, where he won and implemented several grants including the sculpture walk, music park, and other art installations. He is also the founder and current leader of Macon Pride, the topic of today's talk. Scott also literally changed the law in Macon, by lobbying to pass Macon's first civil rights legislation. In addition, Scott practices his faith as a member of Centenary United Methodist church, where he is a delegate to the South Georgia Conference and a lay leader.

Scott then came up and started his PowerPoint presentation on Macon Pride and LGBTQIA+ Safe Spaces. Scott was very candid about his past struggles. He grew up outside of Barnesville and attended a private

Christian school that didn't have a diverse student body. He was raised in a strict Southern Baptist environment, which was detrimental to his mental health, he said, because he realized he was gay when he was around 12 years old. He tried to fit in, and received a full scholarship to the University of Southern Mississippi. He began drinking, took a job in Atlanta, and eventually became addicted to drugs. That led to a five-year jail sentence, where he entered rehab and became sober. Gradually, he worked himself up.

Now a successful business owner, Scott has tried to help others in the community to find safe spaces. He showed the history of Macon Pride, beginning in the late 1990's with the first Macon Pride Parade. Scott worked hard to support Comprehensive Civil Rights, or CCR, which defines discrimination broadly to include that based on race, religion, color, sex, disability, national origin, ancestry, sexual orientation, gender identity and military status.

Scott touched on many topics, and distributed a flyer of mental health resources compiled by Resilient Middle Georgia (<https://resilientmiddlegeorgia.org/>).



The members had many questions for Scott. In closing the meeting, President Stephanie reminded the members that we don't meet next Monday, the 21st. She also thanked member Kaitlyn Kressin, who owns this beautiful establishment, for hosting today's meeting. The meeting ended with recitation of the Four Way Test.





Do you have a recent accomplishment? Have you or your organization won an award or otherwise been recognized? We want to know, and to recognize your achievement at a meeting. Please email Gary Wheat, our Vocational Service Chair, at gwheat@visitmacon.org

Donate to Rotary Foundation and CART

Club members can make donations to The Rotary Foundation or the CART Fund online line using credit cards or EFT. These can be made in memory of, honor of, or personal donations. They can be setup as recurring or one-time. Follow these easy steps:

The Rotary Foundation: Go to <https://rotary.org/> If you have never signed in you will need to register so it credits your Paul Harris Fellow account and our club. You may need our District number 6920 and club number 4202. Once registered you can SIGN IN to MY ROTARY then click DONATE button in upper right. Check the area ANNUAL FUND, DISASTER RELIEF FUND, or POLIO PLUS to donate, then just follow easy steps to make payment.

CART FUND: <https://mycartfund.org/Login.cfm> follow the online instructions. You will need our **Club number 4202** and **District number 6920**.

Vocational Spotlight

See <http://maconrotary.com/vocational-spotlight.php> to read more information on Rotarians featured monthly on our website <http://maconrotary.com> If you would like to be included in a Vocational Spotlight, please contact Gary Wheat, gwheat@visitmacon.org

Approved Makeups-Family of Rotary Events

Reminder - Makeups can only be used two weeks before or after a missed meeting

Anytime Meeting	Rotary Project or Rotary Committee
Anytime	Volunteer at Macon Volunteer Clinic
Viewing of Monday meeting recorded on Zoom - See current or past Throbs link	

HOW TO MAKE UP MISSED MEETINGS

Please make up missed meetings to help our club's attendance percentage rank with District 6920 and Rotary International. Our attendance is reported each month to the district and is required to be reported before the 15th of the following month. **Members are required to maintain an attendance average of 60%.** Missed meetings must be made up **14 days before or after the meeting you miss.**

See list above of approved makeups. You can make up from the comfort of your home or office online at <http://rotaryclubone.org/> They will email a notice of the makeup to the Club Administrator and you will be credited. Also, attendance at another Rotary Club is a good option when you are traveling!

When you make up using the **Zoom link** of our meetings listed in meeting summary above or makeup in person at another club please send an email immediately afterwards to the Club Administrator, steve@eggmedia.com so your makeup can be recorded. Do not expect the club you visit to report to our club.

Excused Absences

Members have the opportunity to receive a board approved Excused Absence during a long-term family, health, or business crisis. When a member realizes they have a situation that will keep them from attending Monday meetings for an extended period they can contact the Club Administrator or President with the reason. This contact needs to be immediate and not after the crisis. The board can approve a beginning and ending date and attendance is excused on club and district level. Short term absences are best made up online.

Club Membership Applications

We are purpose-driven leaders of influence and action. To sponsor a prospective candidate to join our membership, contact Membership Chair Charles Olson EOlson200@msn.com or any member of the Board of Directors to ensure a vocational classification is available for your candidate. Once the Classification Committee approves the classification, invite your new member candidate to a weekly meeting. If the candidate expresses interest in joining our club, then ask Membership Chair Charles to send the candidate an invitation to apply online. Once the new member candidate completes the application, Board members review the application. Then, new member candidates are presented for formal approval at the monthly Board meeting. Once approved by the Board, new member candidates are announced in Throbs. Unless there is objection by any existing member, the new member is scheduled for orientation and formal induction. All members of our club need to think about who would make good Rotarians!

www.maconrotary.com
